

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1633
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2001
OVERCHARGE FOR TELEPHONE CALLS
V. SAROJA

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that several star hotels overcharge for the telephone calls made by the customers in their hotels;
- (b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government have taken up the matter with Hotel Association of India in this regard and also allowing their inmates to use virtual calling cards from the telephones;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e): The issue was discussed with Department of Tourism who expressed their inability in enforcing any control on the issues of overcharging for telephone calls and not allowing use of Virtual Calling Cards since they do not have any regulatory powers. However, efforts will be made to persuade Hotel Association of India for allowing the Hotel inmates to use virtual calling cards as far as possible.